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CLAIMS

1. A multi-service platform system having a VXS backplane, comprising:

a VXS payload module coupled to the VXS backplane;

5 a first switched fabric enabled mezzanine card coupled to the VXS payload module;

a second switched fabric enabled mezzanine card coupled to the VXS payload module; and

10 a switching element communicatively interposed between the first and second switched fabric enabled mezzanine card and the VXS backplane, wherein the first and second switched fabric enabled mezzanine card are coupled to directly communicate with a switched fabric via the switching element.

2. The multi-service platform system of claim 1, wherein the switching element
15 controls whether at least one of the first switched fabric enabled mezzanine card and the second switched fabric enabled mezzanine card are coupled to the VXS backplane.

3. The multi-service platform system of claim 1, wherein the switching element
20 controls whether at least one of the first switched fabric enabled mezzanine card and the second switched fabric enabled mezzanine card are coupled to the switched fabric.

4. The multi-service platform system of claim 1, wherein the first and second
switched fabric enabled mezzanine card communicate directly with the switched fabric
through the switching element.

25 5. The multi-service platform system of claim 1, wherein the switched fabric comprises a first switched fabric and a second switched fabric.

6. The multi-service platform system of claim 5, wherein the switching element
30 controls whether at least one of the first switched fabric enabled mezzanine card and the second switched fabric enabled mezzanine card are coupled to either one of the first switched fabric and the second switched fabric.

7. The multi-service platform system of claim 1, further comprising a switch module coupled to the VXS backplane, wherein the first and second switched fabric enabled mezzanine card are coupled to directly communicate with the switch module.

5 8. The multi-service platform system of claim 1, further comprising a switch module coupled to the VXS backplane, wherein the switch module directly controls the first and second switched fabric enabled mezzanine card.

10 9. The multi-service platform of claim 1, wherein the VXS payload module comprises a switched fabric connector, and wherein the first and second switched fabric enabled mezzanine card are directly coupled to the VXS backplane through the switched fabric connector.

15 10. The multi-service platform system of claim 9, wherein the switched fabric connector is in a P0 mechanical envelope on the VXS payload module.

20 11. The multi-service platform system of claim 1, further comprising a switch module coupled to the VXS backplane, wherein the switch module controls a switched fabric and wherein the first and second switched fabric enabled mezzanine card are each an independent node on the switched fabric.

25 12. A multi-service platform system having a VXS backplane, comprising:
a VXS payload module coupled to the VXS backplane;
a switched fabric enabled mezzanine card coupled to the VXS payload module;
and

30 a switching element communicatively interposed between the switched fabric enabled mezzanine card and the VXS backplane, wherein the switched fabric enabled mezzanine card is coupled to directly communicate with a switched fabric via the switching element.

13. The multi-service platform system of claim 12, wherein the switching element controls whether the switched fabric enabled mezzanine card is coupled to the switched fabric.

14. The multi-service platform system of claim 12, wherein the switched fabric enabled mezzanine card communicates directly with the switched fabric through the switching element.

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15. The multi-service platform system of claim 12, wherein the switched fabric comprises a first switched fabric and a second switched fabric, wherein the switching element controls whether the switched fabric enabled mezzanine card is coupled to either one of the first switched fabric and the second switched fabric.

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16. The multi-service platform system of claim 12, further comprising a switch module coupled to the VXS backplane, wherein the switched fabric enabled mezzanine card is coupled to directly communicate with the switch module.

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17. The multi-service platform system of claim 12, further comprising a switch module coupled to the VXS backplane, wherein the switch module directly controls the switched fabric enabled mezzanine card.

18. The multi-service platform system of claim 12, further comprising a switch module coupled to the VXS backplane, wherein the switch module controls a switched fabric and wherein the switched fabric enabled mezzanine card is an independent node on the switched fabric.

19. A VXS payload module, comprising:
a switched fabric enabled mezzanine card connection site;
a switching element coupled to the VXS payload module; and
a switched fabric connector in a P0 mechanical envelope, wherein the switching element is communicatively interposed between the switched fabric enabled mezzanine card connection site and the switched fabric connector, enabling a switched fabric enabled mezzanine card coupled to the switched fabric enabled mezzanine card site to directly communicate with a VXS backplane via the switching element.

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20. The VXS payload module of claim 19, wherein the switched fabric enabled mezzanine card connection site directly coupled to the switched fabric connector via the switching element enables the switched fabric enabled mezzanine card to directly communicate with a switch module coupled to the VXS backplane.

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21. The VXS payload module of claim 19, wherein the switched fabric enabled mezzanine card connection site directly coupled to the switched fabric connector via the switching element enables a switch module coupled to the VXS backplane to directly control the switched fabric enabled mezzanine card.

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22. The VXS payload module of claim 19, wherein the switched fabric enabled mezzanine card connection site directly coupled to the switched fabric connector via the switching element enables the switched fabric enabled mezzanine card as an independent node on a switched fabric running on the VXS backplane.

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23. A method, comprising:

providing a VXS payload module coupled to a VXS backplane, wherein the VXS payload module comprises a switching element;

coupling a switched fabric enabled mezzanine card to the VXS payload module;

20 and

the switched fabric enabled mezzanine card directly communicating via the switching element with a switched fabric running on the VXS backplane.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising a switch module coupled to the VXS backplane directly controlling the switched fabric enabled mezzanine card.

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25. The method of claim 23, wherein coupling the switched fabric enabled mezzanine card to the VXS payload module comprises coupling the switched fabric enabled mezzanine card to a switched fabric enabled mezzanine card connection site on the VXS payload module.

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26. The method of claim 23, wherein directly communicating with the switched fabric comprises enabling the switched fabric enabled mezzanine card as an independent node on the switched fabric.

- 5 27. The method of claim 23, wherein the switched fabric comprises a first switched fabric and a second switched fabric, the method further comprising the switching element controlling whether the switched fabric enabled mezzanine card is coupled to either one of the first switched fabric and the second switched fabric.